

TCA 30/2-C



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

*Office of the Chief Patrol Agent
U.S. Border Patrol – Tucson Sector
2430 S. Swan Road
Tucson, Arizona 85711
(520) 748-3000*

September 7, 2007

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
U.S. Congresswoman
1161 N. Swan Rd, Ste. 112
Tucson, Arizona 85712

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

The Tucson Sector of the United States Border Patrol is pleased to have been a part of the Community Workgroup on Southern Arizona Checkpoints (the workgroup) since its inception in April of 2007. We have worked diligently to provide a comprehensive and transparent view of Border Patrol operations and the integral role that permanent checkpoints play in our overall national strategy. I believe that the process of eliciting community input with regard to the potential impacts of permanent checkpoints has been of benefit to both the community and the Border Patrol.

The workgroup process has proven valuable to the Border Patrol in that several issues and concerns of the community have been brought to light. This input will serve to improve the long term planning of permanent checkpoints and reduce or eliminate negative impacts to the communities involved, and ultimately improve our effectiveness.

In responding to the recommendations put forth as a result of the extensive efforts of the workgroup, I have evaluated each recommendation in the context that it is presented. I would like to emphasize that as this process moves forward we will strive to continue the dialogue with the communities. I will continue to be open not only to new ideas, but also to reassessing previous recommendations that we are unable to currently implement.

A key to this process will be accountability in ensuring that all of the hard work and countless hours put into the workgroup's recommendations have not been in vain. My planners and I have reviewed the workgroup's final document, and I have

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instructed my planners to incorporate recommendations into the Tucson Sector's long-term strategy planning document where appropriate. The feedback and recommendations given will be incorporated into any planned checkpoint, as feasible, whether tactical or permanent.

I believe that this process has been of great value to the Tucson Sector, and is a strong example of how a federal agency can involve those that it serves in the pursuit of its mission. I look forward to continued open dialogue with the communities within the Tucson Sector's area of responsibility, and I submit the attached report as the official Tucson Sector response to the workgroup's recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RW Gilbert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert W. Gilbert
Chief Patrol Agent